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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT) ANTITRUST
LITIGATION

MDL NO 1917

MASTER CASE NO 3:07-CV-05944SC

This Order Relates To:
Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs v Mitsubishi

**ORDER RE DIRECT PURCHASER
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCOVERY
RESPONSES FROM MITSUBISHI**

1 Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs (“DPPs”) move to compel the Mitsubishi
2 Defendants¹ (collectively, “Mitsubishi”) to supplement their discovery responses. In
3 particular, DPPs seek an order requiring Mitsubishi to (1) serve original Exhibits A and B to
4 its supplemental interrogatory responses, (2) serve complete and verified supplemental
5 responses to Interrogatory No 12, including new information and sales figures, as
6 promised, (3) make deponents Messrs Koji Murata and Masahiko Konishi available for
7 further examination in San Francisco after the verified supplemental responses are served
8 by all three Mitsubishi Defendants, and (4) reopen any deposition of a Mitsubishi
9 employee for which there is new information.

10 In a nutshell, the DPPs’ complaint is that the Mitsubishi Defendants failed
11 to provide promised supplementation of certain deficient interrogatory responses,
12 repeatedly delayed compliance with their discovery obligations, which undermined the
13 DPPs’ ability to examine two Mitsubishi employees (Messrs Murata and Konishi) during
14 their depositions and has failed to provide original, verified Exhibits A and B that were
15 referred to in supplemental discovery responses but were inadvertently not produced.

16 The DPPs’ Interrogatory No 12 seeks information about Mitsubishi’s total
17 sales of CRTs and CRT Products. According to the DPPs, Mitsubishi provided supplemental
18 responses that were incomplete, late and provided no meaningful information, e g that
19 Mitsubishi was “aware of meetings and or communications referred to in Exhibit B” (which
20 was not attached) and that it had not completed its investigation of facts responsive to
21 this interrogatory. Mitsubishi’s supplemental responses to Interrogatories Nos 10 and 11
22 refer to an “Exhibit A” which was also not provided. Counsel for the DPPs promptly
23 notified Mitsubishi’s counsel about the deficiencies and received a response during the
24 second day of Mr Konishi’s deposition that they were “looking into this.”
25

26
27 ¹ Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (“MELCO”), Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc (“MEUS”) and Mitsubishi
28 Electric Visual Solutions America, Inc (“MEVSA”).

1 After some time, Mitsubishi served updated Exhibits A and B but not the
2 original Exhibits A and B. To date, only MELCO has served supplemental interrogatory
3 responses, but MEUS and MEVSA have not.

4 Remarkable in their brevity, the Mitsubishi Defendants' two letter
5 responses do not address the substantive issues raised in the motion. The Mitsubishi
6 Defendants' first letter asserts that since they agreed to supplement interrogatory
7 responses from Mitsubishi Electric by a date certain and MEUS and MEVSA have no
8 supplemental information to provide, "the parties' agreement has left the Special Master
9 with no issue to resolve, at least for now." 1/9/15 Fuentes Letter.

10 The DPPs reply that they never agreed to withdraw their motion to compel,
11 that MELCO's service of supplemental responses does not moot the motion and that the
12 DPPs' willingness to extend Mitsubishi's response deadline did not constitute an
13 agreement to withdraw their motion. 1/16/15 Saveri Letter at 1.

14 Mitsubishi's sur-reply asserts that because a 12/29/14 email from G
15 Fuentes to R Saveri confirmed that counsel for the DPPs had agreed to "defer a discussion
16 of 're-opening' the depositions of Konishi and Murata," Mitsubishi did not address the
17 issue "out of respect for the need for the parties to attempt to resolve discovery disputes
18 amicably before presenting them to the Special Master." 1/20/15 Fuentes Letter Brief at
19 1. Accordingly, Mitsubishi Electric requested an opportunity to be heard further on the
20 subject of the DPP's motion to compel further depositions before the Special Master
21 issues a recommendation on that subject.

22 Having reviewed the parties' submissions, including over 500 pages of
23 documents in support of the letter briefs, the undersigned finds that: (1) the 12/29/14
24 Fuentes email does not reflect any agreement to moot the DPPs' motion to compel, but
25 merely an agreement to defer discussion of deposing Messrs Konishi and Murata until
26 after the Mitsubishi Defendants properly supplement their discovery responses; (2) it
27 appears that Mitsubishi has repeatedly delayed responding to valid discovery requests,
28

1 effectively withholding relevant discovery responses and preventing DPPs' counsel from
2 examining Mitsubishi's witnesses on relevant documents, such as fully responsive
3 discovery responses and Exhibits A and B; (3) only after the DPP-noticed deposition of Mr
4 Koji Murata and on the first day of the deposition of Mr Masahiko Konishi, did one
5 Mitsubishi Defendant, MELCO, email its supplemental discovery response; (4) but this
6 supplemental response provided no meaningful information, referring to meetings and
7 communications listed in a non-existent Exhibit B and other information contained in a
8 non-existent Exhibit A and (5) the DPPs had to take the depositions of Messrs Konishi and
9 Murata without the benefit of full discovery responses and key documents.

10 **Mitsubishi's Supplemental Responses to DPPs' Interrogatory No 12**

11 Having reviewed Mitsubishi's responses, it appears to the undersigned that
12 Mitsubishi has not provided adequate responses to the DPPs' Interrogatory No 12, which
13 requests relevant information:

14 Interrogatory No 12: Provide Your sales of CRT and/or CRT Products to the
15 United States and globally for each month from January 1, 1991 to the
16 present. For each month during this period, state the volume of sales, the
17 U.S. dollar value of sales, the unit sale price, the per unit cost to produce
18 CRT and/or CRT Products, the per unit cost to distribute CRT and/or CRT
19 Products (including overseas freight, tariff, customs, duties, inland freight,
20 storage, insurance, dealer commissions), and the per unit profit earned.

21 Mitsubishi Electric's original response essentially provided no information, stating that it
22 had not completed its investigation of facts and will identify responsive information or
23 documents responsive to this interrogatory, if any, "as soon as reasonably practicable."

24 10/6/14 Mitsubishi Electric's Response to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of
25 Interrogatories at 7-8 (citing to Mitsubishi Electric's 6/25/14 Response to DAPs' First Set of
26 Interrogatories, at 6-7); see also 10/6/14 MEUS' Response to DPPs' First Set of
27 Interrogatories at 7-8; 10/6/14 MEVSA's Response at 7-8.

28 On 12/10/14, Mitsubishi Electric served its Supplemental Response to DPPs'
First Set of Interrogatories, and provided no substantive information on No 12, other than

1 to say it “will identify information or documents responsive to this Interrogatory, if any, as
2 soon as reasonably practicable.” 12/10/14 Mitsubishi Electric’s Suppl Response at 13. This
3 12/10/14 Supplemental Response referred to Exhibits A and B, which were not attached
4 and never produced.

5 On 1/16/15, MELCO served its Supplemental Response to DPPs’ First Set of
6 Interrogatories, but MELCO’s response to Interrogatory No 12 is very brief, a three-line
7 response citing to certain documents and an expert report. This Supplemental Response
8 did include updated Exhibits A and B but not the original versions cited in the earlier
9 supplemental response. The DPPs complain that this response fails to provide new
10 information, much less sales figures as Mitsubishi’s counsel had agreed to provide.

11 The undersigned finds the Mitsubishi Defendants’ supplemental responses
12 deficient and orders that all three Mitsubishi Defendants provide thorough and complete
13 responses to Interrogatory No 12, including new information and sales figures as well as
14 original Exhibits A and B in existence on 12/10/14 in verified supplemental responses
15 served no later than 14 days from the date of this order. Mitsubishi’s counsel has asserted
16 that Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc (MEUS) and MEVSA “do not anticipate supplementing as
17 they have no supplemental information to provide.” Fuentes 1/9/15 letter at 1. If indeed
18 MEUS and MEVSA have no supplemental information to provide, a verified supplemental
19 response should be served. If the Mitsubishi Defendants require additional time to
20 prepare their supplemental responses, they are invited to submit a letter brief to the
21 undersigned.

22 **Further depositions of Messrs Konishi and Murata after supplemental
23 responses**

24 Mitsubishi asserted that since the parties had agreed that “DPPs will defer
25 for now the request in the Motion to re-open certain depositions, with the parties to
26 conduct an appropriate meet-and-confer on that issue on a later date as may be
27 necessary,” the parties’ agreement leaves no issue resolve, at least for now. Fuentes
28 1/9/15 letter at 1-2.

1 The DPPs' Reply asserts that there was no such agreement to defer or
2 withdraw its motion to compel Mitsubishi to make its witnesses available for depositions
3 on the newly provided information.

4 In Mitsubishi's 1/20/15 sur-reply, Mitsubishi's counsel cites to a December
5 29, 2014 email from G Fuentes to R Saveri stating: "Thank you for confirming that you will
6 defer a discussion of 're-opening' the depositions of Konishi and Murata." Fuentes
7 1/20/15 letter at 1.

8 Rather than addressing the substantive reasons why Mitsubishi opposes the
9 DPPs' motion, Mitsubishi requests "an opportunity to be heard further on the subject of
10 the request to 're-open' these two depositions, before the Special Master issues a
11 recommendation on that subject." 1/20/15 Fuentes letter at 2.

12 As discussed above, the undersigned does not see any persuasive evidence
13 of an agreement by the DPPs to withdraw its motion to compel the further depositions of
14 Mitsubishi's employees, Messrs Konishi and Murata. Moreover, in light of the findings
15 regarding undue delay in responding adequately to valid discovery, the undersigned is
16 inclined to grant the DPPs' motion to compel further depositions of Messrs Konishi and
17 Murata at the undersigned's offices in San Francisco promptly after the Mitsubishi
18 Defendants serve their supplemental discovery responses.

19 Mitsubishi had several opportunities to file a substantive opposition to the
20 instant motion but failed to do so, choosing instead to provide two two-page letters
21 essentially stating that no issues need to be resolved and requesting an "opportunity to be
22 heard further" on the DPPs motion to compel further depositions of Messrs Konishi and
23 Murata. The Mitsubishi Defendants may file a supplemental letter brief addressing why
24 they should not be required to make Messrs Konishi and Murata available for further
25 depositions in San Francisco under the supervision of the undersigned. The letter brief is
26 due no later than 14 days from the date of this order.

1 Accordingly, the DPPs' motion to compel is **GRANTED IN PART**. The
2 Mitsubishi Defendants, including MEVSA and MEUS, are **ORDERED** to produce and serve
3 original Exhibits A and B and complete substantive responses to Interrogatory No 12,
4 including new information and sales figures, no later than 14 days from the date of this
5 order. These supplemental responses must be verified as of the date of service. With
6 respect to making Messrs Konishi and Murata available for deposition in San Francisco, the
7 Mitsubishi Defendants are **GRANTED** the opportunity to address that issue and may serve
8 and submit to the undersigned a supplemental letter brief no later than 14 days from the
9 date of this order. Within 7 days after Mitsubishi's supplemental responses and
10 supplemental brief, the DPPs may submit to the undersigned a reply letter brief.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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13 Date: April 28, 2015



Vaughn R Walker
United States District Judge (Ret)

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16 The Recommended Order of the Special Master is Accepted and Ordered / Denied /
Modified.

17 Date: April __, 2015

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21 Honorable Samuel Conti
United States District Judge